CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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MEMORANDUM

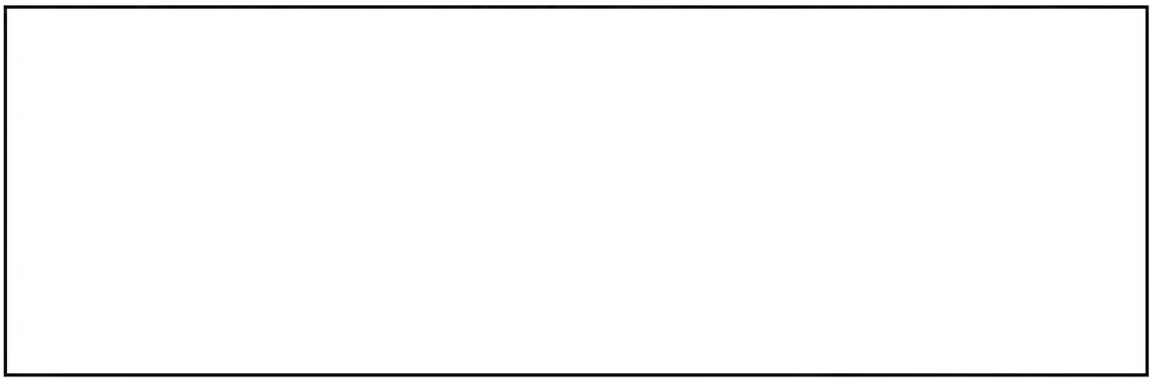
SUBJECT: Operational Factors for Soviet Short- and Medium-Range Offensive Missile Systems

1. This memorandum is for information and outlines some of the factors required to set up operational units equipped with Soviet short- and medium-range offensive missile systems.

2. Transportability: Soviet ballistic missile systems of 150, 350, 700, and 1,100 n.m. ranges, as well as 300 n.m. cruise missiles, are designed for road transportability. Ballistic missiles of 150 n.m. are mounted on tracked vehicles having cross-country mobility, while the longer range systems are transported by trailer, require good roads, and have more extensive ground support equipment. The cruise missile system is mounted on a special wheeled transporter and has a very limited cross-country capability.

3. Fixed Facilities: Permanent launching sites with extensive fixed facilities have been identified in the USSR only for offensive missiles of MRBM range and greater. Although permanent sites are preferred, the MRBM systems also can deploy to alternate field-type installations. The shorter range ballistic and cruise missiles are deployed at relatively simple presurveyed launch positions. In all cases permanent depot and maintenance facilities are required to support each system in the field. In general deployment of these offensive systems probably can be accomplished with fewer prominent and distinguishing site characteristics than, for example, current SAM systems.

4. Time Required to Become Operational: Depending on the missile system involved and assuming trained personnel, from several weeks to several months would be required to process an offensive missile system from shipboard to operational status in Cuba. The construction of an MRBM site would require between three and four months assuming the effort was concentrated on the operational elements as opposed to the support facilities.



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